

## U.S., N. Korea announce compromise

GENEVA (AP) — The United States and North Korea announced Monday they had reached a compromise to ease their confrontation over North Korea's refusal to permit inspection of suspected nuclear sites. In a joint statement the two sides said they agreed that "full and impartial application" of international safeguards was "essential to accomplish a strong international nuclear non-proliferation regime." The statement said North Korea was prepared to begin consultations with the International Atomic Energy Agency to resolve outstanding problems. In return, the United States pledged to help North Korea switch its nuclear power programme to one less easily converted to military uses. The statement said officials would meet again within two months "to discuss outstanding matters related to resolving the nuclear issue... and to lay the basis for improving overall relations between North Korea and the United States."

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورдан تايمز يومية مستقلة ناشرها مجلس المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

## Children shot and wounded in Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 10-year-old boy and a six-year-old girl in central Gaza City Monday after an army patrol was pelted with stones, Palestinian sources said. The boy, Issat Matar, was critically wounded and was flown by army helicopter to an Israeli hospital, the report said. The girl, who was hit in the shoulder, was being treated for bullet injuries at the city's Shifa hospital. Two other Palestinians, ages 15 and 25, were wounded in the clash in the Jabaliya refugee camp and were hospitalized in Gaza City, the reports said. The army has been criticized by human rights groups following the sharp increase in the number of Palestinian children killed and wounded by soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza in recent months. At least 38 Palestinian children under 16 have been shot dead by troops since December, compared to 17 children in the previous year. On Sunday, six Palestinians were wounded by bullets fired by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip. Two were hit in clashes with soldiers at Jabalia.

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### Jewish radicals threaten Ashrawi

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)** — Jewish radicals telephoned and threatened to kill Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi after the station network aired an interview with her, security sources said Monday. They said callers who identified themselves as members of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades telephoned twice during the news broadcast. One caller, thinking the interview was live, said Kach Winnie followers were standing 300 metres away from the television station and would toss grenades at her once she came out. The state-run television summoned police, who searched the area and posted guards outside the studios.

### French parliament sets up new court

**PARIS (AFP)** — French deputies and senators, meeting in a special session on constitutional reform, Monday voted by an overwhelming majority to set up a new court of cassation to give magistrates greater autonomy. Both proposals are in response to public criticism of the existing judicial system following the AIDS-contaminated blood scandal, in which several ministers were implicated, and investigations into illegal party funding by the former Socialist administration. With broad consensus on the measures, the reform was adopted at a special parliamentary session at Versailles Palace by 833 votes in favour and 34 against, with 19 abstentions. The measure required three-fifths of parliament, or 521 votes, to pass. Those who voted against were mainly Communist deputies, while 10 Socialist deputies were among the abstentions.

### Clinton loosens U.S. military ban on gays

**WASHINGTON (R)** — President Bill Clinton Monday officially opened the U.S. military to homosexuals in a partial lifting of the services' traditional ban on gay men and lesbians serving in the ranks. The policy shift was outlined in a directive issued by Defense Secretary Les Aspin, at Mr. Clinton's order and in his name, to the military service secretaries and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The new policy says that "homosexual conduct" but not homosexual orientation will be grounds for removal from the armed forces.

### Sudan to cut prices for poor

**KHARTOUM (R)** — The Sudanese government has ordered cooking oil, tea and soap sold to the poor at low prices to cushion the impact of free market reforms. It also announced plans to extend government support payments of 600 pounds (\$4) a month to two million poor families from the present 500,000, state radio reported. Soaring price have brought hardship to many Sudanese as the government, responding to International Monetary Fund pressure, ended cheap, rationed sales of most household essentials.

### Clinton dismisses FBI chief

**WASHINGTON (R)** — President Bill Clinton Monday dismissed FBI Director William Sessions. Mr. Clinton said he was firing the embattled Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) chief on the recommendation of Attorney General Janet Reno. "I called Director Sessions a few moments ago and informed him that I was dismissing him effective immediately," Mr. Clinton said in announcing his decision in the White House press room.

### Egypt police arrest two in Aswan

**ASWAN, Egypt (R)** — Egyptian police shot and arrested two Muslim militants for trying to attack a police car, security sources said on Monday. The sources said the militants were wounded and reported in serious conditions. The sources said police opened fire when the militants tried to escape capture. The security sources said the two militants had opened fire Thursday on the car of a police officer in the tourist resort town of Aswan, 325 kilometres south of Cairo (Gaman claim attack, page 18).

# Baghdad defuses crisis with U.N.

**Ekeus says Iraq ready to comply with arms-monitoring conditions**

Combined agency despatches

**BAGHDAD** — Iraq is ready to submit its arms programmes to long-term monitoring, as called for by U.N. Security Council Resolution 715, U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus said here Monday.

Iraq's provisional compliance brings to an end the crisis provoked by its refusal to allow the installation of long-term monitoring cameras at two missile test sites.

Washington had threatened to attack if Baghdad refused a deal on long-term monitoring of the Yarmuk Al Azim and Rafah test sites, 60 kilometres south of Baghdad.

Baghdad has insisted that no long-term monitoring could take place before the lifting of the crippling embargo, in force since the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Ekeus is due to leave Bahrain, U.N. regional headquarters, for New York on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Ekeus also said he thought Baghdad would make an announcement soon on resumption of talks with United Nations on limited Iraqi oil sales.

"I guess it (the statement) will be coming very soon from Baghdad," he told reporters in Bahrain, adding that any announcement on the return of Iraq's team to talks at the U.N. headquarters in New York would have to be made by Iraq.

Mr. Ekeus, the head of the special U.N. commission monitoring Iraq, said he was satisfied with the agreement but declined to provide details before submitting his report to the Security Council.

He said the council would react

### OPEC calls urgent meeting

**BRUSSELS (Agencies)** — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced Monday they will hold an emergency meeting in late July to try to halt the plunge in oil prices caused by worries that Iraq will soon start selling crude again.

Cartel President Jean Ping, the Gabonese oil minister, will begin a tour of the Middle East Wednesday to visit member nations in advance of the talks.

A statement issued by the 12-nation OPEC said the extraordinary meeting was being called "to discuss the current soft state of the international oil market."

Sources speaking on condition of anonymity, said it would likely be held July 28 in Vienna.

Crude prices have tumbled sharply in recent days because of speculation that Iraq, one of the world's largest oil suppliers, would soon return to the markets.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has reportedly assured Iraq it would eventually be allowed a big jump in oil exports if it agreed to U.N. terms now, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said.

The newsletter said Dr. Ghali had been exerting all possible influence to ensure the success of negotiations with Iraq on a partial six-month resumption of Iraqi oil sales.

### Resistance attacks Israelis with mortar and rockets

**NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies)** — Guerrillas fired rockets towards Israel's South Lebanon "security zone" and mortar bombs at its local allies Monday as reports said the Israeli army was poised to hit back after receiving a green signal from the government.

Independent security sources in the south said the rockets apparently malfunctioned, flew about 200 metres and crashed to the ground well short of the Israeli-held zone.

The Katyushas were launched by unidentified guerrillas from the Haddarun area, about two kilometres north of the zone and inside an area held by Irish U.N. peacekeepers, they said.

Guerrillas also lobbed mortar bombs at an Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) post on Shumariyah hill on the edge of the zone, security sources said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Israeli and SLA artillery retaliated by shelling north of the zone.

Israeli troops earlier found and destroyed two roadside bombs near Tereh village in the zone. Two Israeli tanks fired shells into the village and soldiers searched for guerrillas.

Tension has been building in the south since guerrilla attacks July 8 and 9 took the lives of five Israeli soldiers and wounded eight.

Israel has since doubled the 1,200-strong force it maintains in

the occupied border strip and sent an additional 12 Merkava tanks, 44 armoured personnel carriers and 35 pieces of artillery in reinforcements.

In a separate incident, a Lebanese army patrol clashed with two guerrillas from the Syrian-backed Amal movement just north of zone, killing one and wounding the other, the sources added.

They said it was unclear what started the dawn clash on the outskirts of Kfar Roumman village but the guerrillas were apparently heading to monitor Israeli movements in the zone.

Israeli sources said in occupied Jerusalem the army was poised to retaliate after any attack from Lebanon after receiving the government's green light for limited operations over the northern border.

"Israel will riposte immediately to any action in Lebanon," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told his cabinet Sunday, the sources said.

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Israel has since doubled the 1,200-strong force it maintains in

firmer Iraq's compliance with the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire pact and ending the international sanctions.

"I don't see any crisis after these talks," said Mr. Ekeus in Baghdad.

"I don't think there is any reason for an immediate warning against Iraq after these talks," said Mr. Ekeus after his sixth discussion in four days with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

The state youth radio station, run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said a "provisional agreement" had been reached with the United Nations, and that talks would continue in New York.

Mr. Ekeus described the new Iraqi position as "positive," adding that discussions between Iraq and the United Nations on how to implement the resolution could begin at the end of August or in early September in New York.

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"I guess it (the statement) will be coming very soon from Baghdad," he told reporters in Bahrain, adding that any announcement on the return of Iraq's team to talks at the U.N. headquarters in New York would have to be made by Iraq.

Many tough technical problems remain to be resolved in high-level talks in New York on con-

ting each other.

**King Fahd holds talks with Yemeni minister**

**JEDDAH (Agencies)** — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday met Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Bassandawa in the latest attempt by the two countries to resolve a territorial dispute.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that Mr. Bassandawa gave the king a personal message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

According to a Yemeni diplomat in this Red Sea port, the message concerns "ways to advance negotiations on the border dispute between the two countries, and to improve bilateral relations."

The dispute centres on the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Asir, currently controlled by Riyadh under the terms of the 1934 Taif accord. Sanaa says the accord expired last September and claims the territories from its larger and richer northern neighbour.

Mr. Bassandawa is the highest ranking Yemeni official to visit Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf war, when Saudi-Yemen relations took a tumble because of Yemen's support for Iraq.

The Yemeni diplomat said the message has a reply to one sent by King Fahd to President Saleh in May, which also centred on the frontier dispute.

Earlier Monday, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and Mr. Bassandawa agreed to revive talks on the border feud, Saudi officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prince Sultan and Mr. Bassandawa agreed that the new round of border talks would be held in Sanaa. The sources said the date and agenda will be fixed in the next weeks.

The border talks between Saudi and Yemeni experts began a year ago, but were suspended while Yemen was pre-occupied with parliamentary elections held last April.

The Israeli army has deployed in strength to defend the north and people living there. The army will take action against all those who seek to attack it," he said.

A new Yemeni government that advocates close Saudi-Yemen ties took office in May.

Member of Mr. Bassandawa's delegation told the Associated Press that the meeting with the King Fahd was successful.

The agency said Mr. Hogg said



The head of the U.N. special commission, Rolf Ekeus, talks to journalists after ending negotiations with Iraqi officials Monday (AFP photo)

## Jordan not dragged into peace process, Regent says

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday that the Gulf crisis and war of Kuwait had led to the complete disintegration of the Arab Order.

"The crisis that hit this region was considered by the powers dominating the world as the most ideal ground for repartitioning and reorganising this region under a new Middle East order," the Regent said in a lecture at the Royal War College.

The Regent rejected contentions that Jordan's involvement in the Middle East peace process with Israel was the only alternative left since the Arabs ruled out armed conflict.

"Here I would like to stress that this assumption is incorrect because we have other alternatives including the return to the no-war-no-peace situation," he said. "This alternative, though more expensive and with negative impacts, could be less expensive and less negative than a failed peace."

"Some people believe that peace based on the military balance of power in the region would yield an unjust peace for the Arab masses," he said.

He said Britain does not have its own agenda for setting the peace process back on track and does not want "to cut across what the United States is doing," in the negotiations, launched in Madrid two years ago under the co-sponsorship of the United States and the former Soviet Union.

"If substantial movement in the peace talks is not made in a matter of few months, it will be hard to sustain support for" the 21-month-old negotiations, British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hogg said.

He said Britain does not have its own agenda for setting the peace process back on track and does not want "to cut across what the United States is doing," in the negotiations, launched in Madrid two years ago under the co-sponsorship of the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Hogg said Britain may have a role to play" in the peace process through its good relations with all parties to the conflict.

But he said any such role would be confined to supporting the ongoing negotiations and the framework within which they are currently taking place.

The British minister rejected arguments that Europe was not doing enough to stop the war in the former Yugoslavia and argued against lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims. If the embargo on the Bosnians is lifted, it will have to be lifted from the Serbs and Croats, he said.

He said Britain would support the deployment of "some" Muslim forces among U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia but added it is up to the U.N. secretary-general to take such a decision, taking into account that these troops should be seen as impartial forces by all the conflicting parties.

Mr. Hogg urged all parties to the peace talks to take steps that would move the peace process forward. He said Israel could make its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza "less oppressive" and the Arabs could relax their economic boycott of Israel.

Mr. Hogg, who will meet with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank Tuesday, also suggested that Palestinians stop all acts of

"violence" to encourage the Israelis.

Asked whether he believed the intifada should stop, Mr. Hogg said: "I mean all acts of violence."

Mr. Hogg, who arrived in Amman Sunday, said progress was achieved in the peace negotiations but said they were going through a critical stage. And "I know that Israel hasn't done everything the Palestinians could wish for," but it is engaged in the 21-month-old negotiations, British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hogg said.

Under the terms of the U.S.-led peace process, talks on the interim status of the occupied territories should begin in the third year of the five-year interim period.

Palestinian peace negotiator Saber Erekat confirmed the issue of leaping into final-status talks as under consideration. He said 21 months of negotiations showed an interim period would be unworkable and only complicate matters.

"The questions that have made it impossible for us to reach an accord on the interim period are the same questions that will be discussed in the final status as territorial, Jerusalem and settlements," Dr. Erekat told Reuters in Amman Monday.

"Therefore we think it (leaping) is a realistic option."

Some PLO officials say such a jump forward could make it easier for Jordan and the Palestinians to lay the basis for an early accord on future links, most possibly a confederation.

# Middle East News

## Change sought in Egypt as Mubarak reelection set

By Paul Eedle  
Reuter



Hosni Mubarak

CAIRO — Muslim fundamentalists, leftists, liberals and independents are all demanding drastic political change in Egypt as Hosni Mubarak prepares to be reelected, unopposed, for a third six-year term as president.

The fundamentalists' insistence on strict imposition of Islamic law, the leftists' call for a return to socialism and even the liberals' appeals for new freedoms are predictable from opposition groups. Nobody would expect Mr. Mubarak to give in to them.

But the demands by political independents show that even people who support the president's free-market economic reforms and his rejection of religious intolerance increasingly despair at his refusal to allow greater democracy.

"We want the third presidential term to be a time when the people's rights are given back to the people, a time of complete civilian rule, a time when the people will enjoy total freedom and all political prisoners will be released," columnist Mustafa Amin wrote in the newspaper *Akhbar Al Yom*.

"We want to go forward, not to remain for even more years standing where we are, not moving, indeed in constant danger of moving backwards and being threatened with dictatorship."

Mr. Amin called for a new constitution "stipulating real democracy without ducking and weaving" and abolition of emergency laws in force for most of the time since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Nobel Prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz urged this and more: Allowing total freedom to form political parties and stopping the president being head of the National Democratic Party (NDP), the group that in one form or another has ruled Egypt since army officers overthrew the monarchy in 1952.

Almost every critic, from fundamentalist to sympathetic independent, insists that

the president should be directly elected by the people. At present a single candidate is nominated by parliament, where the NDP has an overwhelming majority, and put to the people for approval in a referendum.

Mr. Mubarak is due to win parliament's nomination Wednesday and his name will appear in the referendum in October.

The referendum based on one single candidate without any competition has undermined the role of people," declared the liberal Wafd Party, descendant of the nationalist movement that dominated Egyptian politics before the 1952 revolution. "Every citizen should be given the chance to run for this post."

In theory, Egypt is a multi-party democracy. But the constitution and emergency laws give the president enormous power and make a change of either president or government through elections difficult to imagine.

The president is chosen by parliament. The president's patronage, in turn, gives the NDP a huge advantage in elections to parliament. Political parties have been allowed since 1977 but the NDP has always won massive majorities.

The conviction that the NDP wins every time, by fair means or foul, has prevented opposition parties building

up support and made most Egyptians deeply apathetic. Municipal elections last November appeared free and fair but the turnout in some parts of Cairo was only about five per cent.

Many independent businessmen and economists say political reform is vital not just for its own sake but to give economic reforms more chance of success. The 20-year-old constitution still declares that Egypt is a socialist state with a centrally-planned economy.

"If one wants an irreversible change in the economic system from a socialist, public-sector-controlled economy to a market economy, this is not yet reflected in the constitution," one prominent businessman argued.

Mr. Mubarak is not persuaded. Hints from officials suggest the most he will do in the short term is reshuffle the cabinet and NDP leadership and perhaps at last appoint a vice-president, preparing for a smooth transfer of power at the end of his third — or fourth — term in office.

The president is utterly convinced that his policy of allowing only slow political and economic change has saved Egypt. The political heart of the Arab World and the pillar of western policy in the Middle East, from the sort of chaos that has swept Eastern Europe since communism collapsed in 1989.

Mr. Mubarak told the Washington Post earlier this year: "We have to improve our economy and give political freedom on a gradual basis whenever we are very stable in our economy."

His spokesman, Mohammad Abdul Moneim, explained: "He always says that it is if I am driving a train and the rails are weakly joined to the ground. If I go fast, I will turn everything over."

"He is very proud of this gradual change because what happened in the Soviet Union destroyed everything," Mr. Abdul Moneim said. "This kind of society cannot accept these shocking changes. Everything has to go gradually."

## 67 killed in Turkey

TATVAN, Turkey (Agencies) — Sixty-seven people, including 31 separatist rebel Kurds and 26 civilians, have been killed in fresh Kurdish-related violence in the past 24 hours in eastern Turkey, security officials said Monday.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency said 31 members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and eight soldiers were killed in a gunbattle in Bitlis province during a military operation backed by Turkish aircraft.

Anatolia said the operation began on Sunday night and is still continuing.

Kurdish guerrillas killed 26 Turkish nomads in an overnight raid in eastern Turkey, security officials said Monday.

They said PKK rebels attacked tents of nomads in Sunduz plateau near the eastern town of Bahcesaray in Van Province late Sunday, wounding five other civilians.

Two gendarmes were killed in another PKK attack on a military post in the southeastern town of Yavaledere Sunday night.

Security forces began a hunt for the guerrillas who fled after the attacks.

The PKK has stepped up

attacks on Turkish military and civilian targets since the group broke a two-month unilateral ceasefire and declared all-out war against Turkey.

More than 6,400 people have been killed in the Kurdish violence in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK began an independence campaign for Kurdish state.

Turkish security forces have been launching massive land and air operations against increased Kurdish violence in the area.

Meanwhile in Germany, the PKK's political arm, the Kurdistan National Liberation Front (ERNK), warned Monday of stepped up rebel attacks, especially in Istanbul and seaside resorts.

In a communiqué published by the Kurd-Ha news agency, a virtual mouthpiece for the rebels, the ERNK also warned Europeans not to travel to Turkey.

"We call on those people intending to travel to Turkey not to go to a country which is naging a dirty war against a people fighting for its basic rights," the communiqué said.

"We state once again that we will not be responsible for any loss of life in the future."

## Egyptian group says state soft on extremist clerics

CAIRO (R) — A human rights group has accused the Egyptian government of hanging violent Muslim militants but tolerating the preaching of extremist ideas by scholars in the religious establishment.

Nagad Al Qaraei of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said senior clerics from the state-run Azhar Mosque and Islamic university were propagating the same edicts and vision of a purist Islamic state as Muslim militant groups.

"The government is carrying out collective killings against Muslim militants and at the same time it is trying to cover up these massacres by presenting itself as the defendant of Islam by allowing Muslim scholars to propagate their extremist ideas and edicts freely," Mr. Qaraei told a news conference marking EOHR's annual report on human rights in Egypt.

EOHR said Azhar scholars had been repressing the freedom of thought, belief and opinion over the past year by sanctifying the murder of secular intellectuals and banning books that it judged anti-Islamic.

"It also represents a clear invitation to any Muslim group to usurp the legal role of the courts and to destroy the rights of the judiciary to protect the basic human rights of the individual," the report added.

len under the control of Muslim scholars. This is an indication of the retreat and weakness of the government and a proof of the growing influence of the Islamic trend," Mr. Qaraei said.

EOHR said in its annual report that it was shocked by an edict issued by Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazali at the trial of militants accused of killing anti-fundamentalist writer Farag Foda, in which he said anyone who openly resisted full imposition of Islamic law was an apostate who could be killed by the government, or failing that, by priests.

"EOHR considers the statement to be tantamount to the excommunication of a large section of Muslim society, as well as being a clear invitation to murder. It is a legitimisation of the various acts of terrorism and violence that have afflicted this country in recent times," the report said.

"It also represents a clear invitation to any Muslim group to usurp the legal role of the courts and to destroy the rights of the judiciary to protect the basic human rights of the individual," the report added.

Orchards of olives and plums.

But many families that cannot afford to return to their pre-war homes say the ministry's plans are adding to their misery.

The ministry hopes to return 40,000 families to 192 villages by 1994 and has ordered thousands of poor squatters to leave Beirut and other areas to make way for the original owners.

In return, squatters receive

lump sums ranging from 2,000 to 5,000. Officials said squatters in more than 10,000 homes in Beirut and other areas will be evicted by the end of August.

"I have nowhere to go but the street," said Latifah Abdul Rahman, 40, a Muslim ordered out of a 12-storey Beirut block by July 21. "The government should provide us with a home before they throw us out."

Mr. Nasserddine said the government should build 50,000 cheap housing units over the next two years to house the impoverished displaced, estimated to number 30 per cent of the total 450,000.

Meanwhile, refugees are flooding

the region's villages and

towns, notably Qala Diza.

In the nearby village of Rania, around 50 Iranian Kurdish families are living in schools and public buildings, according to Kurdish authorities.

## Iranian shelling of Kurds intensifies despite officials' visit

By Lissy Schmidt  
Agence France Presse

ERBIL — Iran's shelling of Iranian Kurdish refugees has intensified near here in the past 10 days, killing seven and leaving thousands homeless, according to Kurdish leaders and international aid agencies.

The shelling, which continued despite a visit to Iraqi Kurdish leaders by a senior delegation from Tehran, has driven 7,000 villagers, Iraqi and Iranian, into the hills, the sources said.

Many of the villages have been partly or totally destroyed by the shelling.

The Iranian delegation, which arrived Tuesday to meet Kurdish political leaders in their self-proclaimed independent region of Iraqi Kurdistan, left Saturday without any visible progress being made, according to Kurdish sources.

The delegation would return after consultations with Tehran, they added.

Heavy shelling continued Saturday night, witnesses said.

In the northeastern region of Qala Diza, an AFP correspondent saw three villages which had been destroyed by Iranian shelling, and a swathe of agricultural land — on which the Iranian Kurds depend for their livelihood — which was burnt out.

Another 20 villages in the region have been abandoned, according to local residents.

Iran accuses the opposition Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran of launching "terrorist acts" in Iran from bases inside Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Iranian delegation met with Masoud Barzani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, but failed to persuade the Iraqi Kurds to eject their Iranian counterparts from the region.

"We can't accept any proposals on how to treat the Iranian Kurdish opposition here in our region," an Iraqi Kurdish representative at the talks told AFP, adding that they would be telling Iranian Kurds not to launch military strikes from their region.

"It is our decision to let them stay here or to push them out," the representative said, adding that they had no intention to throw out the Iranian Kurds "for the time being."

At Meydan, in the Darbeikhaneh region 150 kilometres south of Qala Diza about 200 Iranian soldiers made an incursion last week, according to the local Kurdish military leader.

Witnesses told AFP the few who stayed in the village of Shinaraz, near Qala Diza, and tried to harvest their crops after sporadic Iranian shelling began in April, had left after five of them were killed on July 3.

Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sulaymaniyah said they would try to work with the German aid organisation Medico International, which is active in the region, to resettle the displaced people further from the Iranian border.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Indian maids alleging abuse quit Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — About 20 Indian domestic workers alleging misconduct by employers flew home two weeks ago under a Kuwaiti-funded repatriation programme, an embassy official said Monday. The women had been living at an Indian embassy refugee for several months, the official said. Their return home coincided with the Kuwaiti-paid repatriation of about 400 Filipina maids who left in groups over the past month. They had also accused their employers of abuse. The Indian embassy official said the maid allegations were non-payment of wages, excessive hours of work and what he called very rare cases of alleged rape. He said the Kuwaiti government had paid for the tickets of another group of about 40 Indian maids who had flown home last year after making similar allegations against employers. The Indian embassy refugee contained 20 to 30 domestic workers on any given day, he said. There were between 130,000 to 140,000 Indian nationals working in Kuwait, 38,000 of whom were domestic workers, he said. About 150,000 Asian domestic servants, 10,000 of them Filipinas, work in Kuwait, which has a population of 1.3 million. Kuwaiti officials say the reports of abuse are either made up or exaggerated by a minority of women who want to get out of contracts and go home.

### Six accused fanatics escape from Aden jail

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Yemen said Sunday six Muslim fanatics held for their alleged role in a bomb blast which killed two tourists and a Yemeni escaped from an Aden prison. An Interior Ministry official source said the six men, with the help of a prison guard, escaped from the Mansoura central prison in Aden province at dawn Sunday. He said the six were accused in the case of "explosions in Aden province in December." Two Austrians and a Yemeni were killed in bomb blasts in December at two Aden hotels. Muslim militants were also blamed at the time for separate failed attempts to murder two senior members of the Yemen Socialist Party.

### Seoul postpones sending troops to Somalia

SEOUL (R) — South Korea has postponed sending peacekeeping troops to Somalia until the end of the month because of instability there and uncertainty over Italy's plans, the defence ministry said Monday. Seoul is waiting for Rome to decide whether or not to withdraw its troops, some of which were sent to guard the South Korean contingent.

The delegation would return after consultations with Tehran, they added.

Heavy shelling continued Saturday night, witnesses said.

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# Home News



## Prince Ghazi receives Ph.D.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi, the second son of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, has received his Ph.D. degree in philosophy and literature with distinction from Cambridge University.

The degree was conferred upon Prince Ghazi at a graduation ceremony Saturday.

Prince Ghazi was born in 1966 and attended Harrow

College for his secondary education.

He went to Princeton University in the U.S. for his undergraduate studies and there, graduated with distinction.

He received his masters degree from Cambridge University.

Prince Ghazi is currently working at the Royal Court.

## Majali suggests a 'manpower agency'

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday reviewed the country's unemployment problems at a meeting of the Planning Committee at the Labour Ministry.

Dr. Majali said the ministry

has a duty to help Jordan deal with the unemployment problem and in organising the local labour market through intensifying its control measures and implementing employment laws and regulations.

## Visiting U.S.-Arab interest group learns about NHF programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Washington Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Monday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF). The delegation, composed of 34 American college professors and 11 American high school students, watched a slide presentation on NHF projects and programmes presented by NHF's Assistant to the President, Communication and Development Specialist at the foundation, Sima Bahous. Dr. Bahous pointed out that NHF works in five major areas of integrated development

namely, family and community development, women, children, culture and heritage, and education.

NHF follows a specific development philosophy which aims at helping the people to become self-reliant and to improve their overall quality of life.

At the end of the presentation a discussion took place between members of the delegation and NHF staff regarding women's issues and the models of integrated development which the foundation is seeking to intro-

duce.

The delegation then toured the NHF Design and Trade Centre, an offshoot of the National Handicrafts Development Project which has extended technical, training and marketing assistance to over 2,000 Jordanian crafts people.

The delegation's visit is part of their study tour to Jordan and Syria, which the council organises on a yearly basis to broaden American understanding of the Arab World and the region's relationship with the U.S.

## Jordan makes great strides in human rights record — Sharif Fawwaz

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Geneva headquarters, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, said Jordan was one of the first countries in the world to join the International Charter of Political, Civil, Social, and Cultural Human Rights and other conventions on human rights.

In a lecture delivered at the University of Jordan Monday, upon an invitation by Amnesty International, Sharif Fawwaz reviewed the concept of human rights, saying it emerged since the start of civilisation and was protected by monotheistic religions.

He said he had issued instructions to all supply departments in the Kingdom to strictly monitor prices in all shops and markets and ensure that all commodities with fixed prices are carrying price labels.

The minister and the society members agreed to hold periodic meetings between them to discuss specific issues and take the necessary measures to solve existing problems.

The meeting was attended by Ministry Secretary General Mustafa Khleifat and several officials.

witnessing.

He said Jordan's participation in the International Conference on Human Rights, which convened in Vienna recently, was important in intensifying its efforts in the human rights arena and affirmed that the democratic era in which Jordan is living has reflected an enhanced public awareness of this issue, making it an important ingredient in the people's daily lives.

Sharif Fawwaz underlined the importance of the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in protecting and safeguarding human rights in the present atmosphere of public freedoms and in following up the implementation of international charters in this regard.

He said there was a difference in adhering to international con-

ventions on human rights between the Arab states and the developing states in that the Arab states want to adhere to human rights principles, while the developing states care more about economic development.

According to Jordan's U.N. envoy, there are 1,900 institutions in the world working to protect human rights; some of them working at national levels and others at regional and international levels.

He also pointed out that some of them are anti-Arab or working for Zionists groups.

In another development, Sharif Fawwaz opened an exhibition held by Amnesty International at the university. The exhibition included art works and posters highlighting human rights and the need to defend them.

## Jordanian wins engineering award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fadi Maaz Alkhairi has won the prestigious 1993 T.Y. Lin Award of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for his technical paper entitled "Stress at Ultimate in Unbonded Post-Tensioning Tendons; Part 2—Proposed Methodology."

His paper was co-authored with Antoine E. Naaman and published in the November/December 1991 issue of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) Structural Journal.

The paper discusses a new

equation derived using rational procedures for the prediction of the stress at ultimate in unbonded post-tensioning tendons.

The equation is proposed for adoption in the ACI Building Code.

Dr. Alkhairi will accept his award this coming October during the awards ceremony at the ASCE Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas.

The T. Y. Lin Award is presented by ASCE for the best technical paper in the area of prestressed concrete published

during a 12-month period in publications from the ACI, ASCE, and the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI).

The award was endowed by T. Y. Lin in 1986 to encourage meaningful papers on developments in the area of pre-stressed concrete.

Dr. Alkhairi, who is currently a project manager with T. Y. Lin International at their Virginia office (Dar Al-Handal Group), obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in 1987 and 1991 in structural/civil engineering from the University of Michigan.

## Teachers learn to foster good health practices

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Monday launched a four-day training workshop for vocational training and science teachers at the Ministry of Education schools to orient them on health education programmes recently introduced by the ministry at its schools in Jordan.

Organised in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the workshop will review several working papers on new trends in health education development, healthy behavioural patterns among students, the related role of teachers, school administrators and local health centres, as well as environmental health.

The Ministry of Education's Health Education Project aims at creating healthy practices and behaviour among students in the early years of their growth, said Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri at the opening session.

Dr. Masri, who deputised at the meeting for Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari, said health education should be regarded as an activity practised under the supervision of teachers, but with

the help of parents and other family members.

The project can be considered as a genuine investment whose yields would be reflected in the general health of the community, thus contributing to socio-economic development, said Dr. Masri.

Dr. Masri said health education has already been introduced in schools, but the ministry was now preparing the remaining curricula for all classes.

Ahmad Hiyasat, director of the ministry's Curricula Department, outlined the progress achieved so far in implementing the project.

Textbooks being prepared by the ministry will help teachers of science and vocational training in developing sound health practices in their students, said Mr. Hiyasat.

Mustafa Abu Sheikha, director of the Teachers Training Centre, expressed appreciation for UNICEF's continued support of the ministry's health education projects.

The Ministry of Education has continually cooperated with UNICEF to ensure comprehensive health services to Jordanian children, he said.

## Professors assess one-person-one-vote system and predict its effect on the Islamist candidates

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Professors at Yarmouk University expressed their opinions of the proposal for a one-person-one-vote amendment to the Election Law and predicted the outcome of the Islamic political parties' campaigns in November based on whether or not such an amendment is passed.

"The 1989 Election Law guarantees the voters' liberty and work as a safeguard for democracy," said Mazen Garayeb, head of the Political Science Department at Yarmouk University.

He sees the one-person-one-vote system as curbing citizens' freedom. For Dr. Garayeb, if voters cast their votes for one candidate only then they have no say regarding other candidates in their district, which he maintains could result in the election of candidates who do not represent that voter's interests.

The 1989 Election Law gave voters multiple choices for the number of seats in a particular district; candidates would win if he/she gained the highest number of votes for the available seats.

"If the one-person-one-vote system is to be implemented, the

market to make up for the temporary shortage until imports come from alternative sources in Australia, Romania, Macedonia or Tajikistan," he told the Jordan Times.

Bulgarian meat used to be brought to Amman in refrigerated aircraft immediately after slaughter and sold as fresh meat.

Officials of the Ministry of Supply, which controls most imports of consumer products and foodstuff, said the ban was enforced because of the hoof and mouth disease currently inflicting Bulgarian cows.

The decision, prompted by recommendations from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, was conveyed to importers during a meeting with Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim Sunday, they said.

"There is no scarcity of alternative sources," he added.

Bulgaria supplied 7,000 tonnes of meat to Jordan during 1992, accounting for about 30 per cent of the Kingdom's imports of red meat. In the first six months of this year, Bulgaria sent 1,700 tonnes of meat to Jordan.

Mikhail Cingalevitch, commercial attaché at the Bulgarian embassy here, expressed surprise at the ban.

"The disease was reported in May and we exerted intense efforts since then to localise and eliminate it," he said, adding that the European Community subsequently lifted a ban on

Bulgarian meat. "We are trying to get more details of the situation now," he added.

Jordan also maintains a ban on beef and beef products, including dairy items, from Britain and Ireland. The ban was imposed three years ago because of BSE, the "mad cow" disease.

The commercial department at the British embassy here said it had been trying to convince Jordan to lift the ban since the disease was eliminated from Britain.

"We have a lot of reports indicating that there is no longer any justification for the Jordanian ban," said an official at the embassy.

However, it continues to import limited quantities of cheaper varieties of frozen meat from several countries to cater to the poorer class at controlled prices.

During Sunday's meeting with the minister of supply, importers and traders called for the scrapping of a JD 5 per head import duty levied on live cattle and sheep and the consumption tax levied on imported meat.

There was no immediate indication how the government viewed the appeal.

Jordan from several countries, including New Zealand, Australia and India.

Elias Boulos, manager of Khalaf Stores, a leading importer of frozen food, said prices for frozen beef and lamb ranged between JD 1.2 and JD 2.5 per kilogramme depending on cuts.

But, in general, the consumption of fresh meat is higher than frozen meat despite the price difference.

The ministry of supply lifted its monopoly on importing meat in 1990 and let market forces dictate prices.

However, it continues to impose a ban on all types of vacuum-packed meat regardless of origin saying such meat was vulnerable to contamination during overland transport.

Furthermore, some traders were also selling the vacuum-packed meat as fresh meat at higher prices, reports in the local press said.

Frozen meat is imported to



Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari reviews educational cooperation with visiting Bahraini delegation (Petra photo)

## Minister voices Jordan's eagerness to second teachers to Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari Monday said Jordan was keen on bolstering its education relations with all Arab states and would spare no effort in providing Bahrain with its needs of Jordanian teachers.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation from Bahrain here to conclude agreements on the secondment of Jordanian teachers to the emi-

rate.

Head of the Bahraini delegation Rashed Shweitevoi voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's continued help.

"We have always found Jordanian people's arms and hearts open for us and ready to help to meet our educational requirements," said Mr. Shweitevoi.

Praising the proficiency of the Jordanian teachers, Mr. Shweitevoi

said they have always showed consciousness and diligence in their duty and contributed to the development of Bahrain's education system.

The minister outlined the various stages of educational development in Jordan and extended an invitation to his Bahraini counterpart to visit Jordan and examine the Kingdom's educational system.

## Arab Academy of Music calls for unifying music education curricula

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 12th Conference of the Arab Academy of Music ended in Amman Monday with a call by the participants from 13 Arab states to unify Arab countries' music education curricula in the private and public sectors.

The delegates to the three-day meeting, organised by the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), urged Arab governments and other concerned parties to organise specialised studies on Arab music and Arab folkloric art and to set up specialised centre to conduct research in Arab music.

They also recommended the creation of centres to teach traditional Arab music and the preparation of unified plans for music education.

Furthermore, the participants called for the publication of material featuring the activities of the academy and called for the organisation of music festivals, the proceeds of which would go to benefit musicians of Somalia.

The recommendations included a call on the world community to end the embargo on Libya and Iraq and halt foreign intervention in Somalia.

The participants urged Arab governments to ship urgently

needed drugs to the Iraqi children.

The Baghdad-based Arab Academy of Music is one of the Arab League's associations, founded in 1971 to follow up on the development of music in the Arab World.

The delegates to the meeting elected a new academy board, chaired by Hassan Oraibi of Libya.

Countries represented at the meeting came from Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Oman, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, Palestine, Yemen and Egypt.

## Professors assess one-person-one-vote system and predict its effect on the Islamist candidates

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

He believes that unless such a change to 80 constituencies is affected along with the one-person-one-vote proposal, representation would be unfair and unjust and give tribal interests an advantage in the elections.

Dr. Khadra sees such an advantage as unfavourable in a democratic system like Jordan's.

According to Issam Mousa, head of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, the new proposal will be a challenge for the voters to choose the best.

He maintains that it "will guarantee the rights and privileges of minorities in Jordan."

Dr. Mousa also believes that women should be guaranteed a seat quota in the Lower House.

Both professors asserted that Islamic groups would win the coming elections.

Dr. Mousa added that the Islamic groups will win because they have a long and mature political experience in the country.

These groups are well organised and have programmes

which meet and fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the masses," concurred Mohammad Oqla, dean of the Sharia and Islamic Studies Faculty.

While other political parties were harassed in the past, the Islamist groups, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, enjoyed freedom and liberty. In 1989 these groups won 28 seats in the Lower House, where the Muslim Brotherhood is considered the back-bone of the Islamic factions.

If the one-person-one-vote system is implemented, Dr. Mousa believes, these groups will lose other political parties will win more seats.

"This system will give these

parties the chance to be represented in the house," remarked Dr. Mousa.

According to Dr. Bashir, in order to

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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## Laws that breed violence

**EGYPT IS** increasingly coming under attack for its human rights record. The Geneva-based U.N. Committee for Human Rights is criticising Egypt for the emergency rule under which Cairo is apprehending and prosecuting Muslim extremists and Egypt's exclusion of its Sharia law from scrutiny under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Egyptian delegation at the current human rights' committee meetings in Geneva is pleading for recognition of the dangers posed by Muslim fundamentalists and calling for appreciation of the draconian methods used by Cairo to combat the threats to its security and stability. Still many members of the committee, while voicing concern about extremism and terrorism in Egypt, are cautioning against the deployment of legal and security measures that are not compatible with the international covenant which Egypt ratified more than twelve years ago.

A particular area of concern voiced by the human rights experts manning the committee was the extended duration of emergency regime in Egypt and the relatively lax way the norms of the ICCPR are being observed by the Egyptian authorities. An emergency regime is by definition applicable for only a short period in order to deal with an "emergency" situation. An emergency cannot be presumed to exist for several years as has been the case in Egypt. Another issue is the hanging of persons found guilty by special security courts at a time when Article 6 of the covenant calls for phasing out capital punishment. Cairo is also being derelict in not informing the United Nations secretary general of its decision to proclaim martial law or a state of emergency as Article 4 indeed calls for. In this vein, the Egyptian government must also notify the other members of the treaty about which articles of the covenant it wishes to derogate from and why during the declared state of emergency. Egypt's attempt to exclude the Sharia law from the guidelines of the covenant is a veiled attempt of double standards which is clearly rejected by the human rights committee.

Sunday's attack on an army general and the subsequent death of innocent people is an indication that neither emergency laws nor capital punishment will alleviate the deteriorating security situation in that country. While fanatics, wherever they are, are not expected to respect or guard human rights, it is the responsibility of states to do so.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**AL RAI** Arabic daily discussed the mission of Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. disarmament envoy in Iraq, noting that Mr. Ekeus is not negotiating with the Iraqis over the implementation of U.N. resolutions, but rather acting on behalf of the United States. Mr. Ekeus is carrying a clear message to the Iraqi leadership that they either accept humiliation in exchange for partial easing of the embargo on Iraqi oil or face new aggression, said the paper. It said that Iraq is not willing to accept the conditions under which the oil can be sold, simply because most of the revenues would be used by the United Nations to pay for the salaries of thousands of American and Western officials and very little will be left to buy milk for the Iraqi children and medicine for the sick and wounded. Mr. Ekeus is finding it difficult to speak the threatening language of the United States because he comes from Sweden, a country known to be valuing ethics and conduct and principles, but he has been given his job by the United Nations which has become a ready tool in the hands of Washington carrying out its desires and whims and imposing oppression on other nations, said the paper. Other nations of the world look on appalled by the current behaviour of the United Nations but well aware that the world organisation is being directed by the United States which is carrying out genocide against the Iraqi people and allowing the Bosnians and the Somalis to be massacred, added the daily. However, we hope that the U.N. envoy would reach some sort of agreement with the Iraqi government that would avert the Arab country another aggression that would cause further sufferings to the Iraqi population.

**AL DUSTOUR** daily Monday discussed the continued Israeli massing of troops along its northern borders threatening Lebanon and Syria. Coinciding with the massing of troops are statements by Israel's government leaders intended to escalate tension along the borders and pave the ground for a possible incursion once again into Lebanese territory, said the daily. A fresh aggression on Lebanon, following the continued Israeli raids on the southern regions of that country and the Palestinian refugee camps there, looks imminent in view of this situation, said the paper. These developments and Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon are all indications that the Israelis are determined to abort the peace process, continued the daily. It said that Lebanese and Syria's leaders realise too well the Israeli intentions and the seriousness of the situation and are issuing warnings to the world community, said the paper. It is indeed up to the United States, which is not only a strategic ally of Israel but also the sponsor of current Middle East peace talks, to take speedy action and defuse the explosive situation, added the paper. It said that the United States ought to remove the Israeli threats to Lebanon because it constitutes another Israeli obstacle in the path of achieving a lasting peace in the region.

## The View From Fourth Circle

# The exciting road from old ways to new rules

Several recent meetings between senior government officials and various sectors of society (the prime minister's meeting with professional association heads and with the public safety committee, and the minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' meeting with preachers and imams) tell us a great deal about the nature and direction of our democratisation process — most of it is heartening, but some of it is worrying. I am intrigued positively by what is happening on a daily basis in our dynamic process of give-and-take, by a Jordanian/Arab political culture seeking a new form and learning to play by new rules of democratic pluralism, accountability and popular participation. But the implications of some of the statements and sentiments we hear from senior government officials hint at an inclination to limit our brand of democratic pluralism in a way that is against the laws of biology and therefore against the natural forces of human society.

The prime minister's suggestion to the professional associations that they should leave political activism to the political parties and concentrate on their professional aspirations, sounds logical and rational, but it may not be totally realistic or in keeping with human nature — because human beings, and especially free and proud human beings, do not naturally categorise themselves into neat boxes of professional, political, emotional, economic, social, religious or other concerns. The genius of God's human handicraft is that people are multi-faceted, complex organisms who view life as a totality of material, social and spiritual components that blend into and reinforce one another.

People are also naturally smart and sensitive to power relationships amongst their peers. Our human beings in Jordan are particularly smart, in part thanks to their vast experience with civilisation and in part thanks to the past policies of people like Dr. Abdul Salam Majali and his colleagues who played such an important role in developing the public education system in Jordan. It is not realistic to ask an educated dentist to concentrate only on building a better toothpick and to leave important questions of, say, his family taxes or her children's education or local water supply for others to discuss. Human nature will compel an educated, aware, civically-conscious Jordanian to bring all possible ideas and pressures to bear on the political decision-making process — because that person, like all Jordanians and Arabs (well, almost all Arabs, but we'll skip that one for the moment because we're supposed to be in a reconciliatory mode, so let's reconcile a while longer and see what happens) desires only good things for our society and country.

Also, it may be slightly double-standard of us to request our own professionals to stick to their laboratories and not get involved in public issues when we applaud and use the work of foreign professionals who are often critical of, say, Israeli human rights standards (Physicians for Human Rights, Lawyers for Human Rights, etc.)

The prime minister also suggested that demonstrations and street rallies by the professional associations and others were perhaps no longer an appropriate means of political expression, now that we have parties to engage in ideological battle. He is probably right intellectually, but he may have also missed an important human element in the total equation of our current political transformation: the whole point of democratic pluralism is that a political consensus emerges from the interaction of many different forces in society; if the government feels it should determine the playing rules on its own, it may force the other players to call into question the authenticity and credibility of the very political transformation we are engaged in. It is difficult to create a new system on the basis of old means.

The situation with the religious sector is similar. The minister of Awqaf has asked preachers and imams to refrain from exhortation, improvisation and ignorance and to stay away from political or factional propaganda. Yes, this is sensible and logical. Yes, we want to avoid contentious confrontations. But is it realistic to ask people to separate their spirituality from their social reality? And who draws the line between one mother's hungry child and another person's fanatic exhortations? The fact that people in distress in the Middle East turn to their religion for the comfort, services, and hope that they do not obtain from other sectors of society should cause us to double our efforts to address the underlying causes of human needs, disparities and stresses, and not to focus on their superficial symptoms.

One of the reasons that Islam has been politicised by the angry, the needy and the marginalised is that existing public institutions did not always accurately reflect such people's feelings and aspirations. Heavy-handed controls by the executive branch, coupled with judicial and legislative branches that were moribund to the point of being politically dysfunctional and often totally marginalised forced the human dimension of our people to turn

**"Human nature will compel an educated, aware, civically-conscious Jordanian to bring all possible ideas and pressures to bear on the political decision-making process because that person desires only good things for our society and country. Also, it may be slightly double-standard of us to request our own professionals to stick to their laboratories and not get involved in public issues, when we applaud and use the work of foreign professionals who are often critical of, say, Israeli human rights standards."**

to other forms of expression and identity. Many turned to the mosques, quite naturally and logically, for succour and a sense of hope. It is inevitable that there should be some instances of extremist rhetoric and political exploitation in such a situation. These are best dealt with by eliminating the causes in society that give rise to them — poverty, disparities and the arrogance of wealth and power — rather than by making the mistake that has been made in Egypt, Algeria and other lands where the people and the power structure ended up fighting over who has better claim to God.

The common denominator between these two examples of exhortations by government officials is that they are both apparently sensible concepts, but they are both perhaps a little bit naive and perhaps slightly out of step with the democratising times. The government is right to fear individuals who may use democratic and open institutions to foment disorder and to serve their own ends, and it should deal with such people harshly, within the existing laws. But in a democratic, pluralistic and very ancient Arab/Islamic-Semitic society such as ours — where

people's historical memories and cultural legacies are as old as any civilisational thing on earth — the way to preserve public order is to target the troublemakers and not to constrain the natural, biological tendencies of the majority of decent people.

The spirit of democratic pluralism and the heritage of our very ancient societies demand more freedom, not less; and both require greater trust in the common sense of individuals as the bedrock of our national unity and durability — and not a more strict delineation of the parameters of democratic pluralism by the unilateral decisions of the executive branch. Our culture and our identity speak of stable societies that have endured on this land for over ten thousand years, communities of families and clans and tribes that have often defined their people and they treated them as trustworthy and dignified human beings.

This ancient collective memory of ours causes us to be naturally cautious when we see public policy being made in our name by a process that does not always adequately take into consideration the sentiments, the inclinations and the ectoplasmic humanity and spirituality of ordinary people who intuitively sense if they are being treated with respect or if they are being taken for granted. It is no accident, therefore, that voter registration for the autumn elections should be lower than anticipated, and that the prime minister should have had to make a public call last week for voters to register. He said that people should not remain satisfied by sitting in the back seat while demanding freedom and democracy.

He is correct, of course, and he touches the heart of the matter, which is the nature of our democracy and how individuals relate to it and participate in it. Is democracy only voting in elections and joining a party? Or is it deeper than that — is it a spirit of free and responsible expression that unleashes the total vitality and creativity of human beings, in their homes, in their schools, in their mosques and churches, in their professional associations and football fields, in their neighbourhoods and homes? Our current power structure seems to be telling the people to define democracy in a narrow, functional sense: to vote and to engage in political expression through the political parties only. But this is a model that has not worked in any other country on earth where democracy has been tried, so why should it work here?

It is vital for our public officials not only to grasp the full meaning and implications of democratic pluralism, but to be seen as the leaders of the process of change we are engaged in. Most of our senior public officials have decades of experience in a former system that did not include any serious brand of institutionalised and formal accountability to the people. Most of them are not experienced in pluralistic politics and may find it difficult to make the transition from the top-heavy past to the bottom-loading future.

We witness today the Jordanian system in the midst of this exciting, historic transition from the past to the future. It is natural for the power structure to seek to cling to old habits and established ways, while other sectors of society seek to advance to more modern, responsive and egalitarian systems of governance and decision-making that can deal with the vast new challenges of our era. From this dynamic will emerge a new political system that will define Jordan and perhaps many other Arab lands for many decades or centuries to come. We are fortunate to live in these times when we can participate in formulating a new Arab political culture in which our responsibility is not only to vote, but to participate in public debates about the very nature of Arab/Islamic-Semitic democratisation.

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## 'There will be no interim settlement unless we talk to the PLO'

By Allan E. Shapiro

The good news coming out of the peace talks with the Palestinians is that there is no news. Instead, there is thick cloud, a necessary cloud, in the words of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, apparently obscuring ongoing contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). This means that real bargaining is in progress.

Let's hope so. It is in Israel's interest to talk to Yasser Arafat, to strengthen the hand of the Palestinian delegation with which we are negotiating. Recognition of the PLO's role will give the Palestinians the legitimacy and credibility they need to really bargain and to make a deal. That means the ability to make concessions. Specifically, it means the acceptance of an interim agreement that does not constitute a prior commitment on the part of Israel with regard to the nature of the final settlement. That is, the legitimate, when key issues are put into play, bargaining blocks such as Jerusalem and boundaries.

The PLO's acceptance of the principle of an interim settlement is now a matter of history. That is the significance of the PLO's endorsement, indeed, its sponsorship, of a Palestinian delegation that would negotiate directly

with Israel on the terms of an interim arrangement. This does not mean that there has been any change in PLO ideology; it does mean that there has been a change in its interests.

This change has come about primarily because of the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the (occupied) territories and throughout the Arab World. Even today, an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza would lead to open warfare between Hamas and the PLO, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently observed. When the idea of a unilateral pull-back first gained currency, the strongest opposition was voiced in the Egyptian press, motivated by its own struggle against fundamentalist forces.

Before the appearance of a serious contender, the PLO could take the support of Palestinians in the territories more or less for granted. Whether or not Mr. Arafat's constituency, i.e., the regular people, might be swayed by the PLO's argument that the PLO's position is no longer relevant, if the PLO loses out on its own home ground, it will have lost all.

The PLO may wind up, as Mr. Rabin once suggested, as a Palestinian version of the World Zionist Organisation. This is be-

cause, whatever form of Palestinian political organisation emerges in the territories, it will hold the reins of power. It will not be because that is the way Mr. Arafat wants it.

Even assuming some polar conflict of interests between Mr. Arafat's constituency abroad and his constituency at home and that Mr. Arafat is forced to choose between the two, there is no question what his choice will be.

Unquestionably, statehood and the right of return will be retained as integral elements of PLO ideology. The creation of the Jewish state will remain a historic injustice. However, these issues will no longer have a place on an active political agenda.

They no longer constitute operative objectives, partly because they are unobtainable. The PLO, after all, has made its own redefinition of the goal of the conflict.

The issue is not recognition of the PLO as an organisation. It is a matter of negotiating where the decisions are made, not where they are ratified. It is far from certain that if there can be an interim settlement, if the PLO supports it. It is absolutely unquestionable, however, that there can be no interim settlement if the PLO is opposed — The Jerusalem Post.

## U.N.-Iraq mistrust could rule out end of sanctions

By Jane Arraf  
Reuter

BAGHDAD — Whatever the outcome of its latest showdown with the U.N., western fears Iraq might cheat on its Gulf war ceasefire pledges and start rebuilding its war machine could rule out an early lifting of sanctions.

Baghdad appeared to be searching for a way out of a crisis in which it could face a military strike if it continues to prevent U.N. inspectors from installing cameras to see what is being tested at missile sites.

Iraqi officials held crisis talks with the United Nations' top arms envoy, Rolf Ekeus, in Baghdad on Sunday. Mr. Ekeus was trying to persuade Iraq to drop its defiance to U.N. resolutions on weapons monitoring.

U.N. officials say Iraq has followed a pattern since it lost the 1991 Gulf war of not coming clean on its weapons capabilities. Under the terms of its defeat by the U.S.-led allies who drove its troops from Kuwait, Iraq was obliged to dismantle its major weapons programmes.

"Iraq's initial declarations have been so poor that we have had to go from a definition of innocent until proven guilty to guilty until proven innocent," one U.N. official said.

"We have had to be far more intrusive than we otherwise would have been if Iraq had been open with us."

U.N. officials say that in return for the lifting of trade sanctions against Iraq, it must comply with long-term monitoring and fulfil its obligations under ceasefire Resolution 687.

Resolution 687 calls for the destruction of Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and long-range ballistic missile programmes, long-term monitoring to ensure it does not revive arms programmes and a range of other obligations Iraq says it has fulfilled.

When the U.N. drafted the resolution it expected it would take 45 days to implement it.

But that was almost three years ago and although 60 U.N. weapons inspection teams have since come and gone, the United Nations believes some pieces are still missing and Baghdad is holding back information.

Although U.N. nuclear experts have declared Iraq's nuclear weapons programme dead, they warn that Iraq still has the know-how to reconstruct it.



# Features



## Oman — leaning on the past to build a peaceful future

By Tom Porteous

MUSCAT, Oman — The first thing that strikes the visitor to Oman is how clean the country is. The moment one sets foot in the airport terminal one gets an impression of the kind of cleanliness associated with Switzerland. Indeed, Oman is gaining a reputation in the Middle East as the "Switzerland of the Arab World" — and not just for municipal hygiene.

The very road from the airport to Muscat — and the lovingly maintained grass verges that have been made to grow along its sides in spite of desert temperatures that reach 50 degrees centigrade in summer — give the appearance of being vacuum-cleaned each morning. Oman is one of the few countries in the world where it is an offence to drive a dirty car, and regular visitors joke that not a leaf falls from a tree without a gardener waiting to sweep it up and dispose of it.

The joke is based on the truth. Thousands of gardeners — many of them Indians — are employed to maintain the many gardens and green verges with which the Omanis combat the harsh desert climate. Along the country's new highways, it is not unusual to see a man trundling along the hard shoulder in a vehicle, stopping every now and again to pick up the garbage that drivers have thrown from their cars and which in most countries is just left to accumulate.

These are small details, perhaps, but they are the outward signs of the larger picture of Oman's development. The longer the visitor stays, the more he is likely to be impressed, not to say astonished, by the integrity with which the country's modern development has been achieved. Oman has cut few corners and made few compromises in its efforts to transform itself from a backward and isolated corner of the Arabian Peninsula plagued by civil war, ignorance and disease into a successful, modern nation state.

Looking at Oman today, it is hard to believe that less than 25 years ago it was one of the least developed and poorest countries of the Arab World. There were no asphalt roads, no schools or health service to speak of and no government apparatus in the modern sense. The country was isolated, not just from its neighbours and the rest of the world, but its regions were cut off from each other by tribal feuding, poverty and lack of communication. Disease and ignorance were rife, and, in the southern province of Dhofar, there was a full-scale rebellion.

Today Oman is one of the most prosperous and stable of Arab nations. The country is at peace with itself and with its neighbours. With their border differences settled, Oman and a united Yemen are encouraging commerce and have plans for road development to further strengthen their ties. Oman has enhanced its traditional commercial ties with India, which supplies a considerable foreign labour force, and has discussed a gas pipeline to Bombay, with an eye towards a strong commercial and strategic relationship. It is reviving ties to East Africa, has maintained military ties to its former protector, Britain, has given the U.S. access to military facilities and is opening its borders to the investment and tourist market.

Oman's people are forward-looking. A reasonably advanced educational system is not only available to all but is free, as is the health service. Roads have been cut through even the most mountainous regions, and remote villages benefit from electricity and telephones. There has been large investment in the traditional sectors of agriculture and fishing, as well as in an ambitious industrialisation programme. In short, in a brief period of time, Oman has been thoroughly and successfully modernised.

"The future is not an unknown thing," said Abdul Aziz Al Rowas, the Omani information minister. "Tomorrow is what we do today, very much as today is what we have done yesterday. When we think about a development project, it is not just something to be done simply because we have the money to do it. It is an environmental, social, economic and, above all, a national issue."

This concern for long-term effects of current policies sets Oman apart from many developing countries. While most have dogmatically, according to imported formulae, pursued pure economic development without regard for the local environmental, cultural and social dimensions, Oman has sought to keep an eye on all the elements and effects of development, adjusting the programme here and fine-tuning it there, according to the response of the society.

To be sure, Oman would never have been able to achieve this remarkable feat without oil. The

country now exports some 750,000 barrels per day, making it one of the world's highest per capita producers outside of OPEC. But what makes Oman a particularly remarkable case is not the speed or depth of its development, but the fact that it has been achieved with few of the traumas increasingly associated with modernisation.

Again, it may be said that oil has helped to ease the country's progress from backwardness to modernity. But, as is shown by the negative social, environmental and political effects of oil riches on some of the larger oil-producing countries like Algeria and Iraq, oil alone cannot buy the kind of society that Oman is in the process of building: a healthy society at peace with itself, with no signs of instability and political extremism.

The architect of Oman's remarkable development policy — one is tempted to call it a philosoph-

ity amongst the people to roll up their sleeves and work hard to add more to their glorious history and to demonstrate to coming generations that they are worthy of their history."

Everywhere one goes in Oman, one is reminded of the past and struck by the interest and pride that Omanis take in it. The disparate influences of Oman's age-old relationship with Iran and of its long colonisation of Zanzibar are still to be traced in the temperamental and physical characteristics of many Omanis.

In the northern interior, farmers make time to explain the remarkable 2,000-year-old system of man-made underground canals that have tapped water lying deep under the mountains. Most of the oases fed by these canals are dominated by fine castles, remarkable specimens of Arab architecture, many of which the Ministry of Heritage has had carefully restored. Recently disc-

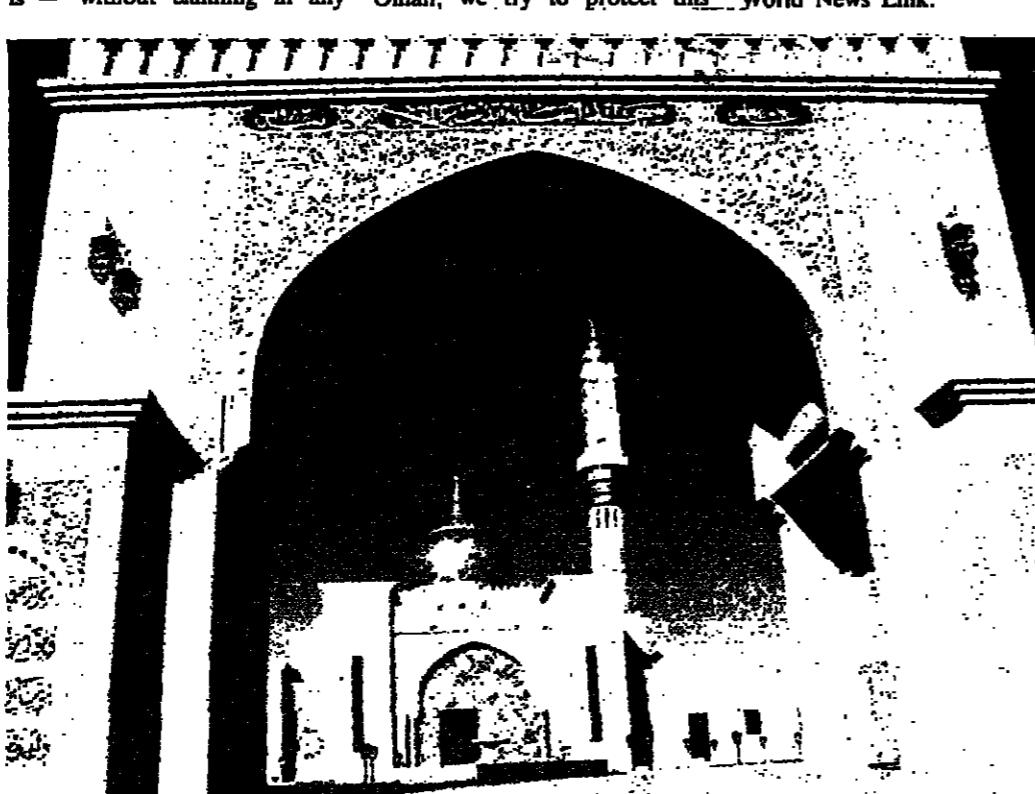
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phy — is a man whose political style owes more to the traditions of Islamic kingship than to modern political theory. Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said's education in England and Oman was a mix of western and traditional Islamic influences. When he came to power in 1970, western influence may have given him the technical insight as to what kind of development policies Oman required. But in politics, it was the traditional style that gave him the flexibility and pragmatism needed to put them in place.

Because of respect for traditional political structures, Oman is — without claiming in any

overed ruined cities in the south — now the objects of archaeological studies paid for by the government — are reminders of an ancient and prosperous civilisation based on trade in frankincense, a natural resource that was once as essential to Oman as oil is today.

Oman's consciousness of its cultural heritage plays an important part in policies such as urban planning, which requires that buildings in most districts conform to a traditional style. "Architecture itself is a sign, a part of any culture's identity," said Abdul Aziz Al Rowas. "In Oman, we try to protect this



In Muscat, modern architecture is inspired by ancient history (WNL photo)

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## Gaza Strip festers as Israeli control weakens

By Nicolas B. Tatro  
The Associated Press

KHAN YUNIS, Occupied Gaza Strip — Strike day. Palestinian stores are closed. Few people are on the street except helmeted Israeli soldiers, who have seized an intersection after breaking up a fire-burning demonstration.

"I want to show off our presence here," says Col. Yoash Rubin, leading a convoy of three vehicles through the centre of town.

Israeli flags the size of bed-sheets flutter from lookout posts on two nearby roofs.

"It's a symbol for who's in control here," says Col. Rubin, who commands the central sector of Gaza, the hardest to manage of the Israeli-occupied territories.

But control is fleeting and Palestinians also make a show of force. Moments after the convoy stops, a volley of stones, some as big as grapefruit, bounce off a corrugated tin roof. One rolls close to the commander's jeep.

Israel is losing the battle for Gaza's dusty streets. Increasing violence, the growing power of Muslim fundamentalists who reject peace and the mounting cost of holding Gaza together are pushing it to the top of Israel's agenda.

The mood of despair in Gaza is in sharp contrast to that of the West Bank and the Arab sector of Jerusalem, where apartment buildings and Arab businesses are sprouting. Palestinian businessmen have met with Israelis to talk about cooperation after peace comes. Land prices are soaring and there is a sense of hope.

Some prominent Israelis suggest Gaza be the starting point for Israeli withdrawal from occupied land and a testing ground for Palestinians to practice self-rule.

"I think there are a lot of people in Israel, perhaps the majority, who would finally like to get rid of this tough and terrible place; that is called the Gaza Strip," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Israel Television.

His solution: Let PLO chief Yasser Arafat come to Gaza, persuade Arab oil states to invest and rein in the fundamentalists.

Palestinian leaders, divided politically, are reluctant to endorse a "Gaza first" policy or accept Israeli offers of "early empowerment," the day-to-day management of such services as

health, education and police.

Many fear running Gaza without enough money, or the authority to create jobs and ease its crushing poverty, would end in failure and a loss of credibility.

"The Israelis want to get rid of Gaza," said Zachariah Al Agha, a physician and member of the Palestinian peace-talks delegation. "But we say, 'What will you give us in return?'"

Sari Nusseibeh, a ranking adviser to the delegation, said he favours "Gaza last" because the burden of Gaza creates pressure on Israel to give on other issues.

While the politicians wrangle, Israeli flags flutter from look-out posts on two nearby roofs.

In the refugee camps, jumbles of huts and shacks made of corrugated tin, burlap, wood and stone, the air is heavy with the smell of sewage and burning debris.

While the politicians wrangle,

Toddlers on rubbery legs walk barefoot in alleys strewn with rusted tin cans, broken glass and open pools of sewage.

Violence is pervasive. Seventy-six Palestinians, 28 of them children under 16, have been killed by Israeli soldiers this year. Palestinians have killed 12 Israelis.

Masked Palestinian activists have killed at least 54 fellow Palestinians, brutally executing some in public for alleged collaboration with Israel.

Walls of buildings in Gaza are a riot of red and black graffiti, layer upon layer that carry the orders of PLO factions and such Muslim fundamentalist groups as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

"The Fatah Hawks claim responsibility for killing two soldiers," one says, and another: "Hamas says no to peace talks."

Announcements by Islamic Jihad praise the killing of a Jewish woman who drove Gaza workers to jobs in Israel. They declare that Americans will be kidnapped if harm comes to Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric, an Islamic spiritual leader, arrested in New York on immigration charges.

Teenagers, who have spent little time in classrooms since the Palestinian uprising began in 1987, hang out on street corners and in shop doorways. Few have regular jobs, especially since Israel closed the occupied lands and barred workers under age 50 from Israel. The United Nations estimates unemployment at 50 per cent, up from 41 per cent before the closure in March.

"We go from street to home, from home to street," said Abdulla, 17, one of half a dozen teenagers in the doorway of a vacant Gaza city store. "We are sitting here with nothing to do. There are no jobs."

Young Palestinians, the soul of the uprising that led to peace negotiations, are often contemptuous of the politicians, convinced they are driven by personal gain.

In many households, there is a generational split.

Fahd Sharri, 17, sees little hope in the talks. His father, Mohammad, a former communist politician who was jailed for his beliefs, supports them.

As the son put it: "Now they talk and issue statements, stay in five-star hotels and drive around in limousines, wear imported suits and go back and forth to the State Department."

**Facts about the Gaza Strip**

Arab population in 1967: 356,000.

Arab population in 1993: 830,000. Another 100,000 living abroad with permits to return.

Portion of Arab population under 18: 495,000.

Jewish population in 1993: 4,000.

Area: 375 square kilometres.

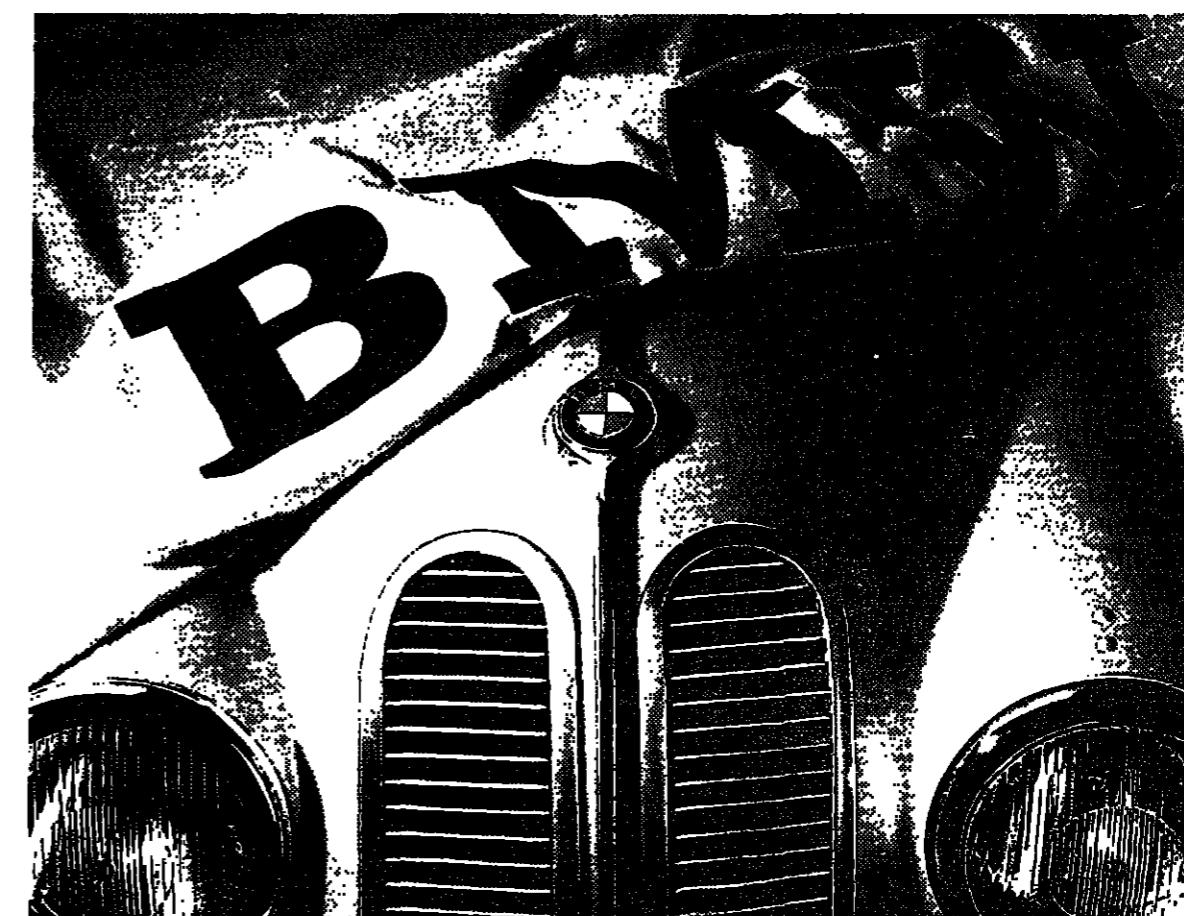
Proportion of land in Israeli settlements: 10 per cent.

GNP per capita: \$795.

Casualties this year: 76 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces, 54 Palestinians killed by other Palestinians.

Number of victims under 16: 28.

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# 6 Economy

## Egypt to lift import restrictions, raise duties

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will lift import restrictions on some items, raise duties on others, and cut import privileges enjoyed by public sector firms, Al Ahram newspaper reported Monday.

But a proposed law, part of free market reforms agreed with the World Bank, apparently avoids committing Egypt to cutting import duties across the board as the bank has urged.

Two years into the reform programme, trade liberalisation has become a hot issue between the bank and Egypt, which has run a chronic trade deficit for more than a decade.

The Egyptian government,

under intense pressure from local industrialists, says it wants to liberalise but must do so gradually to give long-protected local industries time to become internationally competitive and safeguard against dumping.

Al Ahram quoted a senior finance ministry official as saying the proposed new trade law, under discussion for many months, would lift restrictions on imports of timber, household and electrical appliances and paints.

The law would also end concessionary customs duties paid by public sector firms on 30 classes of items, creating complete parity with Egypt's private sector. Al

Ahram said.

Public sector firms which formerly paid five per cent duties on lighting and air conditioning appliances will pay 100 per cent.

Tariffs on textile machinery would jump from five per cent to 60 per cent.

Al Ahram quoted the ministry as saying the question of cutting the top rates of duties would be left for later, without specifying when.

Western economists say the bank and the International Monetary Fund are pressing the government to introduce a timetable which would cut top rates to 50 per cent this year, 40 per cent in 1994 and 30 per cent in 1995.

## Chinese economy grows 13.9% in six months

PEKING (AFP) — China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 13.9 per cent in the first half of the year, but the record surge was undermined by old and new structural problems, the State Statistical Bureau said Monday.

The cost of living rose 12.5 per cent nationwide, and was 17.4 per cent in 35 major cities, bureau spokesman Zhang Zhongji told a news conference.

The spokesman acknowledged that Peking's target of 10 per cent GDP growth for the year was impossible, saying growth in the second half would be about 12 per cent. China's GDP grew 12.8 per cent last year.

China's shift to a market economy last year eroded the government's fiscal controls, failed to end its huge burden of propping up debt-ridden state-owned enterprises and worsened a growing gap between the booming coast and poorer inland areas, the spokesman said.

"At present, the economic situation is good in general," Mr. Zhang said. "But macro-economic operation is becoming more strained daily along with the high rate of economic growth."

Peking adopted tough measures this month to cool off overheated investment and bring down inflation, including tight limits on new credit and a crackdown on real estate speculation.

The measures had started to show initial results, Mr. Zhang said, but serious problems persisted.

Efficiency remained low at the majority of state-owned enterprises, with 31.1 per cent of them operating at a loss, down just 0.9 percentage points.

The government has so far failed to follow through with plans to wean firms off state subsidies, fearing social unrest.

Industrial output registered in June its 12th consecutive monthly rise of more than 20 per cent, Mr. Zhang said.

Fixed asset investment rose about 61 per cent to 354.2 billion yuan (\$61.6 billion), but it was highly uneven and exceeded government-set limits, Mr. Zhang said. New capital construction projects in the first half totalled 22,161 with investment rising 125.7 billion yuan, twice the targeted amount.

Total money supply grew about 10 per cent in the first half, Mr.

Zhang said. Money in circulation totalled 400 billion yuan at the end of last year.

The government made some progress in cutting back on lending from banks to non-banking institutions, which stood at 30 billion yuan, a 14.8 billion yuan net reduction, Mr. Zhang said.

This "indicates that central bank control over nonbanking activities has increased," he said.

Investment in the coastal region, the engine of China's economic boom, rose 81.2 per cent, outstripping inland provinces by about 30 percentage points.

The widening coastal-inland gap was also felt in incomes. Monthly salaries of urban residents outpaced inflation, increasing 13.5 per cent in real terms to 1,116 yuan. But income of rural residents grew half that to 423 yuan.

Retail sales followed a similar pattern, with urban sales double that in rural areas.

China registered a record summer grain harvest of 108 million tonnes, a rise of 47.000 tonnes from last year, Mr. Zhang said, but the good news was tempered by falling investment in agricultural production inputs.

Chronic transportation bottlenecks were also affecting production.

Investment in transportation and communications increased in the first half, but investment in energy dropped.

Despite China's trade deficit of \$2.55 billion in the first half, Mr. Zhang said foreign exchange reserves remained about the same at the end of last year.

Meanwhile China is looking at new guidelines for foreign investment to bring its practices in line with the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Jiao Sufen, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation's foreign investment administration, said top priority would be given to restructuring investment policies according to GATT.

China was a founding member of GATT in 1947 but pulled out in 1950. It applied to rejoin the world trade organisation in 1986.

The China Daily's Business Weekly quoted her as saying it was important to do away with unequal national policies for overseas investors and to create a uniform system.

## GOIC: Arab Gulf cement plants running below capacity

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Cement plants in the Gulf are running well below capacity because of a decline in local and foreign demand, according to an official regional group.

The 21 plants in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

have a capacity of 27.8 million tonnes a year but are producing around 17.3 million tonnes annually, the Doha-based Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC) said in a report.

It said the decline was due to "slow growth in construction compared with the oil boom period and the absence of new markets abroad."

"This has made production costs higher and created a lot of technical problems in this vital sector," the GOIC said.

GCC states — Bahrain, Oman,

seven plants and an output capacity of nearly 18 million tonnes a year. But actual production is running at around 15 million tonnes.

The UAE is the second producer, with eight cement plants producing nearly four million tonnes a year, about half their capacity. Investment in the industry is estimated at \$800 million.

Experts cited a shortage in clinker, an essential ingredient in cement, as another reason for the low production in the region.

The GOIC, which advises on industrial policies in member states, said GCC cement exports stood at 2.24 million tonnes in 1991 and imports at 600,000 tonnes. The UAE was the largest cement producer in the GCC, with

## Caretaker premier finds Pakistan's economy in shambles

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan's new caretaker government, installed before mid-term polls in October, faces the challenge of saving the country from bankruptcy and reviving a chaotic economy.

Interim Prime Minister Moen Qureshi, 63, is considered to be well equipped for both tasks. A suave, soft-spoken economist, he is respected by politicians of all shades as well as by the establishment for his integrity and professionalism.

Mr. Qureshi, who holds a doctorate in economics from Indiana University in the United States, is a former senior vice president of the World Bank and was the first Asian to hold the number two position in the international financial institution.

The Pakistani economy is as confused as the political situation. The inflation rate is forecast officially to be 9.6 per cent and the unofficial rate is put at between 15 per cent and 18 per cent.

The power struggle between former President Ishaq Khan and former premier Nawaz Sharif brought the country to the brink

of an economic crisis, with foreign exchange reserves down to about \$550 to \$400 million and a budget deficit of \$4 billion.

Foreign debt totals nearly \$22 billion.

All foreign investment, despite liberal incentives and reforms effected by Mr. Sharif, was at a standstill during his argument over the distribution of executive powers with Ishaq Khan.

On Thursday, Pakistan devalued its currency by 3.165 per cent to 28.15 rupees to the dollar in a major move to boost exports and reduce a \$3.26 billion foreign trade deficit.

Petroleum products and crude oil imports alone cost the country about \$1 billion a year. A 10 per cent surcharge was imposed recently on domestic petroleum prices to discourage extravagant consumption and to reduce the budget deficit.

Since the Gulf war, remittances sent by expatriate Pakistani workers — a major source of foreign exchange for the country — have fallen from about \$2 billion to \$1.5 billion over the past fiscal year, which ended in June.

However, natural disasters such as monsoon floods in the region of the Indus River and its tributaries, have caused an estimated \$2 billion worth of losses to crops and property last year. Floods have hit Punjab province, but the extent of damages is not yet known.

Industrial output registered in June its 12th consecutive monthly rise of more than 20 per cent, Mr. Zhang said.

Fixed asset investment rose about 61 per cent to 354.2 billion yuan (\$61.6 billion), but it was highly uneven and exceeded government-set limits, Mr. Zhang said. New capital construction projects in the first half totalled 22,161 with investment rising 125.7 billion yuan, twice the targeted amount.

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## Plans firm up for Vietnam foreign exchange, capital markets

HANOI (R) — Vietnam is to upgrade its banking system by establishing an inter-bank market in the national currency, the dong, and a domestic inter-bank foreign exchange market, officials of the central bank, the State Bank of Vietnam, have said.

The bank had approved formation of the two markets, which were expected to be in operation by the end of the year, they said.

The officials said the bank would also present to the government this month documents laying out a three-year programme to develop capital markets and a draft decree for creation of Vietnam's first securities exchange and a regulatory commis-

sion.

The decisions were a significant step in communist Vietnam's development of a market economy and modernisation of its banking system, they said.

"It is a reaffirmation of the government's intention to change the economy into a market-oriented economy," one official said.

Foreign bankers and business men have cited the absence of capital and inter-bank markets as a brake on Vietnam's ambitions.

Details of how the markets will work have not been completed.

The officials said foreign bank branches in Vietnam were ex-

pected to be able to take part in

the inter-bank foreign exchange market. "We want to have the foreign banks participate," one said.

The foreign exchange market, dealing initially only in the dong against the U.S. dollar, would replace Vietnam's current "foreign exchange transaction centres" which work on alternate days in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

In these centres, banks and licensed trading companies say before each session how many dollars they want and the rates they are prepared to pay. After negotiation, a rate for all that day's transactions is fixed.

Group president Alain Gomez said in April when he announced results that the group would have to be restructured further because competition, particularly

from the United States, was increasing.

But he forecast that the group would maintain the net profit figure achieved in 1992 of 1.51 billion French francs (\$265 million) on sales of 34.2 billion francs. The profit figure represented a reduction of 35 per cent from the figure in 1991 and the sales total was down by 2.8 per cent.

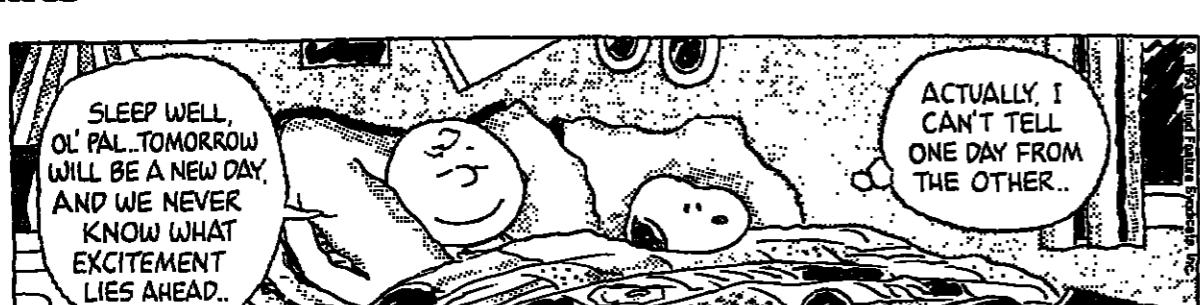
A spokesman for the group said that the forecast made by Mr. Gomez in April remained valid.

But he forecast that the group would have to be restructured further because competition, particularly

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## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



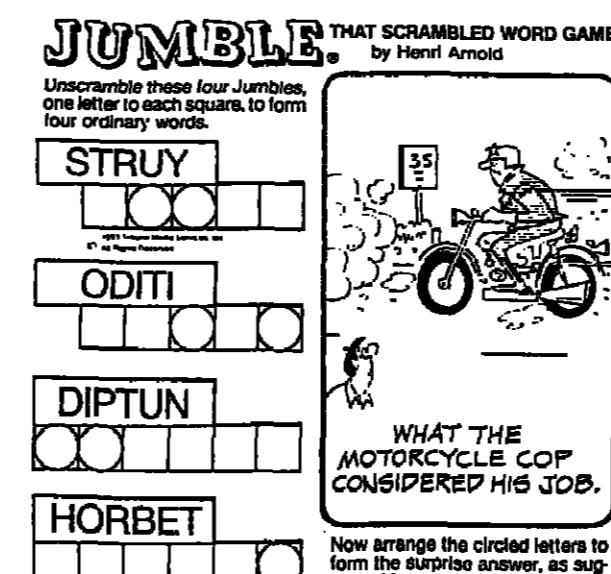
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.  
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Answer: What she felt her boyfriend was giving her — THE FUNAROUND

## U.S. tells South Asia to cut aid dependence

DHAKA (R) — South Asian nations including Bangladesh must reduce their dependence on U.S. aid and start developing trade and investment ties instead, a U.S. official said in Dhaka Sunday.

"The United States has given aid worth \$3.86 billion to Bangladesh since 1972," said Sidney Sober, chief of the U.S. South Asia area studies at the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. State Department.

"We have now some domestic economic constraints in continuing assistance on such a scale," he told a seminar on the U.S. position in South Asia after the cold war.

Mr. Sober said South Asia did not figure prominently in the foreign policy of U.S. President Bill Clinton, who came to power with a commitment to pay more attention to domestic problems.

He said developing countries like Bangladesh should improve trade and investment ties with the United States to help their development.

Bangladesh receives more than \$2 billion in foreign assistance annually to finance its development and imports.



## Bosnian general fired as Serbs attack stronghold

SARAJEVO (R) — A key Bosnian army commander was dismissed at the weekend in response to Serb military successes and fighting raged Monday on Mount Igman, the Bosnian army's stronghold overlooking Sarajevo.

Bosnia's collective presidency decided Sunday to replace Mustafa Hajdovic, commander of the army's First Corps, with Vahid Karadzic, Sarajevo Radio said.

The First Corps is responsible for the defence of Sarajevo and commentators said the shake-up might reflect dismay at Bosnian army setbacks at the hands of the Serbs surrounding the besieged capital.

A week ago Serb forces captured the nearby town of Trnovo, cutting Bosnian supply lines to the eastern enclave of Gorazde.

The Bosnian Serb offensive on Mount Igman and nearby Mount Bjelascica continued Monday, with the Serbs reported to have deployed 15,000 men backed by helicopters and 120 artillery pieces, the radio said.

U.N. officials reported intense fighting on Igman Sunday and overnight but had no details since no U.N. military observers had managed to scale the rugged wooded slope looming over the western half of Sarajevo.

Observers continued to try to climb the mountain Monday but Serb forces controlling access from Sarajevo were believed to be blocking the way on the grounds that it was too dangerous

for non-combatants.

One patrol that tried to reach Igman's base via the Sarajevo Airport runway was forced to retreat by anti-aircraft and tank fire.

Military analysts in Sarajevo agreed Bosnian government forces on Igman were under fierce attack from reinforced Serb armoured and infantry units but said the Serbs would have difficult job taking the mountain.

The Bosnian army is known to have strong artillery batteries commanding its heights while bad roads and Igman's steep, thickly wooded terrain would slow, if not stall, Serb tanks seen clattering into the area from Serb-held Hadzici in the first valley to the southwest at the weekend.

The Serbs' capture of Mount Igman would significantly tighten their noose around Sarajevo by cutting vital Bosnian army supply lines.

A U.N. relief official said about 32,000 people could potentially flee from the Mount Igman area if the Serbs took it and then overrun exposed western Sarajevo suburbs.

Many refugees would probably try to seek protection in Sarajevo by fleeing over the airport runway where scores of civilians have been killed by Serb and Muslim snipers in the past year.

This could be a staggering and extremely tragic event because there is no spare capacity for people to be housed in

Sarajevo," said Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the Sarajevo office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"It would be an extremely dangerous exodus for refugees across the runway. So UNHCR is extremely preoccupied with the situation on Igman."

Mr. Kessler said UNHCR

trucks were bringing in emergency aid for residents and refugees on the mountain.

Fighting flared on other fronts in Bosnia, with Sarajevo Radio reporting that the Serbs shelled the towns of Maglaj and Zavidovici north of Sarajevo Sunday and the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, declared a "safe area" by the United Nations.

Fresh fighting erupted between Muslims and Croat forces in the central Bosnian town of Bugojno Monday.

A spokesman for Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban said: "The Croats are doing what they can but the situation looks grim. The towns of Kresovo and Kiseloj, are virtually cut off and no supplies from the south can get through."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, in a significant about-face, said Sunday Bosnia may have to be divided along ethnic lines if peace were to be restored in the near future.

But at the same time he ruled out attending renewed peace talks with international mediators in Geneva unless rebel Serbs stop

offensives against remaining Muslim-populated enclaves still controlled by the government army.

Croat and Serb forces swapped

174 prisoners overnight in south-eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Monday.

Also released were two Bosnian Serb journalists detained in January while covering the Croat takeover of a strategic hydroelectric dam in Krajina, a Serb-held area of Croatia.

The prisoners were exchanged in the town of Kovaci.

Serb forces freed 65 Croat soldiers, the news agency said without specifying if they were Croats or Serbs.

The Croats turned over 66 Serb soldiers, most of them from Krajina, as well as 43 Serb civilians.

The agency said the local Lloyds Bank. But he added: "It was purely architectural."

**Bank robber out of jail to make film on... banks**

LONDON (R) — A bank robber was freed from an English maximum security prison to make a television film featuring the architecture of historic banks. Peter Wayne, who is serving 10 years at Long Lartin Prison in Evesham, central England, for holding up several building societies, was let out for two days to make a film for Channel Four to be screened in the autumn. A prison officer escorted him all the time. In Salisbury, Wiltshire, Wayne shot a film about Thomas Archer, a celebrated classical 17th century architect of whom he became an expert during his time behind bars. A church worker who accompanied Wayne around Salisbury said the convict took particular interest in the local Lloyds Bank. But he added: "It was purely architectural."

**'Beautiful blonde' ruled out as Miss Australia contestant**

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — Damian Taylor, the sun-burned Aussie lifeguard who made international headlines by beating eight female beauties to win a Gold Coast contest, has had to pull out of the Miss Australia Quest, organisers said Monday.

Taylor, who became known here as "the beautiful blonde" and who went everywhere with his girlfriend to prevent people getting "the wrong idea," was crowned winner of the traditionally all-female Wintersun Quest beauty contest last month. His victory included automatic nomination for the Miss Australia title, but not, it has transpired, automatic acceptance. "I'm disappointed the Miss Australia board has voted to keep me from competing," he said.

Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan said the funds would not even cover losses in his state. He said the damages in Missouri were estimated at \$2.9 million and growing as flooding continued.

President Bill Clinton has pledged \$2.5 billion for the affected states, but state officials called the figure "seriously inadequate".

Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan said the funds would not even cover losses in his state. He said the damage in Missouri were estimated at \$2.9 million and growing as flooding continued.

Mr. Clinton, saying the disaster had all but exhausted the resources of National Guardsmen of each state, said he was considering calling out the military to flood callout.

The flooding appeared to be spreading to neighbouring states as storms dumped up to three inches (eight cm) of rain on Nebraska and a flood warning was issued for the James River in South Dakota, where four inches (ten cm) of rain fell Saturday.

The relentlessly rising waters forced more people to flee their homes Sunday and scientists said there was no end in sight to the deluge, which has caused the worst flooding in the region for a century.

The floods have inundated hundreds of thousands of acres (hectares) of some of the world's most fertile farmlands, killed 27 people and driven at least 30,000 from their homes.

Isolated breaks Sunday afternoon in a levee around St. Charles flooded several neighbourhoods that were evacuated Saturday and some residents ventured out in small boats to recover property.

Fresh rains are expected to keep flood waters at record levels for several more days along the Mississippi and Missouri, North America's two longest rivers.

Their confluence just North of St. Louis has become a vast, muddy sea where once there were farms and small towns.

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The relentlessly rising

# Sports

## Brazil under fire after 0-0 draw with Ecuador

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil came under immediate fire after a weekend 0-0 draw with unranked Ecuador in their opening World Cup qualifying game.

Critics lambasted the team for fading badly in the second half and trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira for making what they said were the wrong substitutions in Sunday's match in Guayaquil.

The Brazilians came perilously close to a humiliating defeat against a team which, in the past, have rarely provided Brazil with more than shooting practice.

"I think we fell away badly in the second half, the substitutions failed to remedy the situation and we lacked a lot in attack and in midfield," said former national team coach Tele Santana.

Santana joined a chorus of criticism for Parreira's decision to replace Luis Henrique, a creative midfielder, with midfield spoiler Dunga midway through the second half.

"We could have improved if we had put out a more creative team, we didn't do this and in the end, we didn't deserve to win," said Santana.

Parreira's initial honeymoon with the Brazilian press has come to an abrupt halt after the country's quarterfinal elimination from the Copa America three weeks ago.

His team selections have come under increasing fire following below-par performances by Careca, Zinho, Rai and Luis Henrique, four of his regulars.

Careca has had a miserable season in Italy with Napoli and if he wanted confirmation that his luck was out, it came midway through the first half when he hit the Ecuadorian woodwork twice in two minutes.

He was then substituted by Evans for the second game running during the second half.

Brazil still have seven qualifying games to play and with two of the five teams in South American Group B going through to next year's World Cup finals, there is little talk of the unthinkable happening and Brazil failing to qualify.

But Brazilians are beginning to worry. The days when they could waltz through the World Cup qualifiers have clearly gone.

Meanwhile, Ecuador can continue nurturing dreams of an unprecedented appearance at the World Cup finals.

The team have improved beyond recognition in the five years since Montenegrin coach Dusan Draskovic took charge, reaching the semifinals of the Copa America they hosted earlier in July.

Against Brazil, they played an intelligent quick passing game more than 70,000 wildly cheering fans in Azteca Stadium, started early when Jorge Rodriguez, taking a cross from Luis Roberto Alves, hammered it past Canadian goalkeeper Craig Forrest for a goal at the fifth minute themselves.

Only some misplaced final passes, poor finishing and a little bad luck prevented them from producing a major shock.

It was a testament to their style of play that, for all the tension associated with a World Cup qualifier, not a single player was booked in Sunday's encounter.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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#### THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ Q 8 6 2  
♥ 7  
♦ A K Q J 6  
♦ 9 7 2

**WEST**  
♦ A K 7 5  
♥ 10 9 8 5  
♦ 10 2  
♦ A 8 3

**EAST**  
♦ 5 4  
♦ K J 6 5

**SOUTH**  
♦ 3  
♦ A K J 6 4 2  
♦ 5 4  
♦ K J 6 5

The bidding:

East South West North

Pass 1 NT Pass 2 NT

Pass 3 NT Pass 3 NT

## Al Gamaa claims attack on general

ASSIUT (Agencies) — The extremist Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed responsibility Monday for an attack a day earlier that led to four deaths, saying the action was taken to avenge the government's executions of militants.

A member of the group, who requested anonymity, said seven of its members opened fire on Major General Osman Shahin, commander of Cairo's central military area, in the capital. Gen. Shahin was not hurt, but two militants, a passerby and a policeman died in an ensuing shootout.

The gunmen were acting on a religious edict, which the group's members believe was issued by its spiritual leader, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind cleric jailed in New York, the Al Gamaa member said.

He said the edict was sent to by fax from the United States and was signed only "the mufti," a name for a Muslim cleric, but that Al Gamaa is convinced it's from Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The 55-year-old sheikh is being held on U.S. immigration charges. A dozen of his alleged followers are charged with the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre and an alleged plot to attack other New York landmarks.

In Egypt, the government has blamed Al Gamaa for a violent 18-month campaign aimed at toppling President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and installing strict Islamic rule. More than 180 people have died in the violence.

The government has responded with widespread arrests and heavy prison sentences. A total of 22 men have been sentenced to death by military courts, but eight remain at large.

The member of Al Gamaa said the faxed fatwa declared that a holy war was inevitable after the execution of 14 militants, the last five on Saturday.

"We have no option but martyrdom and resisting this regime instead of surrendering and sacrificing our necks to its gallows," he quoted the edict as saying.

The seven militants who took part were from Assiut, an extremist hotbed 320 kilometres south of Cairo, the Al Gamaa

member said. He added that four of the attackers managed to flee.

On Monday, the state-owned Middle East News agency (MENA) reported six militants took part and three still were at large. In addition to the two killed, one was arrested. MENA said one of those sought was from Dairut, a town near Assiut, and another was from Cairo.

In Assiut, Al Gamaa distributed a leaflet Monday repeating that it was not responsible for bomb attacks in Cairo that have left many civilians dead and wounded. It said the bombs were planted by Christian Copts to provoke hatred of Al Gamaa.

The extremists' campaign had targeted members of the Coptic minority, officials and tourists before the bombings in crowded public places began earlier this year.

Meanwhile, thousands of Egyptian civilians and policemen marched Monday in the funeral of two men killed during Monday's clash.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfie led the funeral procession. Marchers shouted: "Allah Akbar," "No to terrorism" and "Terrorism is the enemy of God."

Scores of Egyptian teenagers carried banners reading "no to terrorism yes to social peace."

We brought the children to express their anger and protest against terrorism. We want to show that young Egyptians want to live in peace," Nahib Al Alkam, director of the Gezira youth centre, told Reuters.

A small bomb exploded outside the centre on July 13, causing damage but no casualties.

The militants ambushed Shahin's car on the eastern outskirts of Cairo. They were driven off by military police but 27-year-old Mohammad Salama was killed and four other passers-by and an army lieutenant were injured.

The interior ministry did not say whether they were hit by bullets fired by the police or the militants.

Captain Ahmad Beltagi died in a second shootout after the attackers fled up the highway and one hijacked a taxi.



NEW PREMIER: Former President of Pakistan Ghulam Ishaq Khan (left) takes the oath of office Sunday from former World Bank official Moen Qureshi, who is stepping in as caretaker prime minister. Mr. Qureshi took his oath as caretaker prime minister after the resignation of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (see page 8)

AP Photo

## Miyazawa barks at quitting ahead of parliament session

TOKYO (Agencies) — Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, reeling from a general election setback, said Monday he would not resign at once but would decide on his future before parliament convenes next month.

After losing its majority, the most important thing for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was to preserve its unity rather than plunge immediately into a succession struggle, Mr. Miyazawa told a news conference. "We are the largest party by far. I must not cause a traffic jam in national politics and I must try to keep party unity above all," he said.

"I will take these things into account and consult party officials," he told a reporter who asked if he would resign to take responsibility for the debacle. "And then I myself will decide on my course."

Mr. Miyazawa said he would make a decision before parliament meets to vote for a new prime minister. LDP officials said the special session would open on Aug. 2, with the vote on Aug. 12.

Nevertheless, Mr. Miyazawa came under pressure from colleagues shortly afterwards to step down.

"Mr. Miyazawa must resign to take responsibility not only for the election defeat but also for causing the party to split and failing to carry out political reforms," Member of Parliament Shokei Arai said on television.

Another LDP MP who declined to be identified also called for Mr. Miyazawa to go.

"He should make his decision in light of the party being split and the failure to retain the parliamentary majority. He must know what he should do to secure political stability," the parliamentarian told reporters.

With no party commanding a majority in the chamber, intensive discussions were expected on a possible coalition.

NHK public television said the likeliest scenario was for the scandal-plagued LDP to form a weak, minority government. Commentators and party officials predicted another election within a year.

Sunday's election, which left the LDP with only 223 seats in the 511-member lower house, changed the face of Japanese politics after 38 years of de Facto one-party rule.

The election results have temporarily paralysed national foreign policy, diplomats said.

Western diplomats say that even if the LDP succeeds in forming a coalition with a smaller conservative party, the party would become hostage to the wishes of its coalition partner, hampering any bold foreign policy efforts.

Until a new prime minister is appointed by an extraordinary meeting of Diet, which must meet within 30 days, the Japanese government cannot make crucial decisions on the country's future.

For reasons of legitimacy, strategic decisions must be put on hold until a new government is installed despite assurances by Mr. Miyazawa that he is still capable of carrying out the functions of his office.

Many key policy decisions have been postponed until a new government is formed, including those focusing on growing trade tensions with western countries and Japan's participation in international security arrangements.

"Even if Japan's foreign policy does not change fundamentally under the leadership of an LDP-led coalition, we can expect the decision-making process to become slower," a diplomat said privately.

The European Community has asked Japan to reduce automobile exports in response to a recession there, while Washington, which recently signed a trade partnership accord with Tokyo, is awaiting solid steps towards normalizing Japan's market to U.S. goods.

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The election results have temporarily paralysed national foreign policy, diplomats said.

Western diplomats say that even if the LDP succeeds in forming a coalition with a smaller conservative party, the party would become hostage to the wishes of its coalition partner, hampering any bold foreign policy efforts.

Until a new prime minister is appointed by an extraordinary meeting of Diet, which must meet within 30 days, the Japanese government cannot make crucial decisions on the country's future.

For reasons of legitimacy, strategic decisions must be put on hold until a new government is installed despite assurances by Mr. Miyazawa that he is still capable of carrying out the functions of his office.

Many key policy decisions have been postponed until a new government is formed, including those focusing on growing trade tensions with western countries and Japan's participation in international security arrangements.

"Even if Japan's foreign policy does not change fundamentally under the leadership of an LDP-led coalition, we can expect the decision-making process to become slower," a diplomat said privately.

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